

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A purified *Staphylococcus epidermidis* protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 15, or a purified polypeptide having fibrinogen binding activity and having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:13.

Claims 2-24 (Withdrawn)

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Claim 25. (Currently amended) A vaccine composition including the protein or the polypeptide according to claim 1.

Claims 26-29 (Withdrawn)

Claim 30. (Currently amended) A fusion protein comprising the protein or the polypeptide according to claim 1.

Claims 31-32 (Cancelled)